



NEWS RELEASE

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Date: May 25, 2005
District: District 7, Los Angeles and Ventura Counties
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MEDIA ADVISORY

KICK-OFF CEREMONY (GROUNDBREAKING) -- CONSTRUCTION OF I-5 HIGH OCCUPANCY VEHICLE LANES IN SYLMAR

WHO: Douglas R. Failing, District 7 Director, California Department of Transportation; Roger Snoble, Chief Executive Officer, Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro); Victor Lindenheim, Executive Director, Golden State Gateway Coalition; elected officials

WHAT: Celebrate construction of 6.2 miles of new high occupancy vehicle (HOV), or carpool lanes on the Golden State Freeway (I-5) from the Simi Valley Freeway (118) to the Antelope Valley Freeway (14)

WHEN: Friday, May 27, 2005, 10 a.m.

WHERE: Los Angeles County Assessor's Office
13800 Balboa Boulevard, Sylmar
(Located on corner of Foothill and Balboa Boulevards overlooking I-5 Freeway. Take Balboa Boulevard overcrossing north over I-5 Freeway.)

BACKGROUND: This carpool lane construction is the first on I-5 in the San Fernando Valley. Located between the San Fernando Valley and the Santa Clarita Valley in Sylmar, this stretch of carpool lanes will provide a vital link to future I-5 HOV projects from the Simi Valley Freeway (118) to the Hollywood Freeway 170, and from the 170 to the Ventura Freeway (134) – and a direct HOV connector at the I-5/14 Interchange.

BENEFITS: This HOV lane project will improve mobility, help to alleviate congestion, encourage carpooling and improve air quality. In addition, soundwalls will be constructed in various locations along the project area to improve the quality of life for residents who live alongside the I-5 Freeway.

PHOTO OP: Dramatic view of I-5 Freeway at the Foothill Freeway (210) and Antelope Valley Freeway (14) connectors. VIP's pose near IMPROVING YOUR DRIVE ON INTERSTATE 5" banner. # # #

